

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended): A service processing method used in a computer system comprising a ~~plurality~~ series of computers, each of which receives a message, executes a ~~Web~~ an individual service ~~based on the basis of the~~ received message, and then outputs [a] at least one message generated from the result of the execution, said computer system realizing a ~~Web-service~~ series of services in a coordinated manner by transmitting and receiving the messages ~~among~~ along the series of computers, said method implemented in one of the series of computers, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving from a preceding upstream computer a message including first information about the a service execution request from the preceding upstream computer, and second information about at least one notification request of progress information ~~in the service~~ issued from each upstream computer;

executing said individual service according to the first information; and

analyzing the second information, and after that, ~~based on the basis of the~~ execution result of the individual service, generating [a] at least one message according to the second information, and then transmitting the generated message to each of the upstream computers ~~computer~~ that is identified by a destination of progress information notification included in each notification request of the second information; and

transmitting to each following downstream computer a message including a

service execution request for the following downstream computer, and the second information to be passed through about at least one notification request from each of the upstream computers in addition to a notification request of progress information to be reported to said one of the series of computers.

2-5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended): A service processing apparatus used in a computer system comprising a plurality series of computers, each of which receives a message, executes ~~a Web~~ an individual service based on the basis of the received message, and then outputs [a] at least one message generated from the result of the execution, said computer system realizing a ~~Web service~~ series of services in a coordinated manner by transmitting and receiving the messages ~~among along~~ the series of computers ~~computers~~, said apparatus implemented in one of the series of computers, said apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving from a preceding upstream computer a message including first information about ~~the execution of the Web~~ a service execution request from the preceding upstream computer, and second information about at least one notification request of progress information issued from each upstream computer ~~in the service~~;

execution means for executing said individual service according to the first information; and

means for analyzing the second information, and after that, based on the basis of the execution result of the individual service, generating a message according to the second information, and then transmitting the message to the

computer that is identified by a destination of progress information notification

included in the second information; and

means for transmitting to each following downstream computer a message including a service execution request for the following downstream computer, and the second information to be passed through about at least one notification request from each of the upstream computers in addition to a notification request of progress information to be reported to said one of the series of computers.

7-10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended): ~~A service processing program~~ A computer program product used in a computer system comprising a ~~plurality~~ series of computers, each of which receives a message and executes ~~a Web~~ an individual service based on the basis of the received message and then outputs at least one [a] message generated from the result of the execution, said computer system realizing a ~~Web service~~ series of services in a coordinated manner by transmitting and receiving the messages ~~among~~ along the series computers, the computer program product comprising:

a computer program; and

a computer-readable storage medium having the computer program tangibly embodied thereon,

wherein the computer program causes one of the series of computers to perform said service processing program comprising the steps of:

receiving from a preceding upstream computer a message including first information about the execution of the service a service execution request from the

preceding upstream computer, and second information about at least one  
notification request of progress information issued from each upstream computer in  
~~the service;~~

executing said individual service according to the first information; ~~and~~  
analyzing the second information, and after that, based ~~on the basis of~~ the  
execution result of the individual service, generating [a] at least one message  
according to the second information, and then transmitting the generated message  
to each of the upstream computers ~~computer~~ that is identified by a destination of  
progress information notification included in each notification request of the second  
information; and

transmitting to each following downstream computer a message including a  
service execution request for the following downstream computer, and the second  
information to be passed through about at least one notification request from each of  
the upstream computers in addition to a notification request of progress information  
to be reported to said one of the series of computers.

12. (canceled).

13. (new): A service progressing method according to claim 1, wherein  
said notification request in the second information includes a hierarchical level  
indicating the extent of downstream level to which the most upstream computer  
requests the notification of progress information, and said one of the series of  
computers decreases the hierarchical level by a decrement and passes the  
notification request to the following downstream computer unless the received  
hierarchical level has reached a limit value in the extent.

14. (new): A service processing method according to claim 1, wherein said notification request in the second information includes a degree of details in which detail the most upstream computer expects the progress information to be returned.

15. (new): A service processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said notification request in the second information includes a hierarchical level indicating the extent of downstream level to which the most upstream computer requests the notification of progress information, and said one of the series of computers decreases the hierarchical level by a decrement and passes the notification request to the following downstream computer unless the received hierarchical level has reached a limit value in the extent.

16. (new): A service processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said notification request in the second information includes a degree of details in which detail the most upstream computer expects the progress information to be returned.

17. (new): A computer program product according to claim 11, wherein said notification request in the second information includes a hierarchical level indicating the extent of downstream level to which the most upstream computer requests the notification of progress information, and the program code causes said one of the series of computers to decrease the hierarchical level by a decrement and pass the notification request to the following downstream computer unless the

received hierarchical level has reached a limit value in the extent.

18. (new): A computer program product according to claim 11, wherein said notification request in the second information includes a degree of details in which detail the most upstream computer expects the progress information to be returned.